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JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues..... $15.00

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The **John Reich Journal** is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: 1836 new variety gold half eagle first identified by John W. McCloskey during the summer of 1996. This coin has a new obverse and reverse not previously identified for the series. It also has a date style that is different than any other dies of this year. Photos courtesy of Tom Mulvaney.

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Editors' Comments

Another numismatic year is coming to a close with the upcoming ANA convention in Portland. The officers of JRCS are looking forward to again seeing many of you at our annual meeting. We are scheduled to meet Wednesday morning in room B110-111 at 9:00. There will be educational presentations following general business and a small auction. We have a complete set of The John Reich Journal that will be sold to benefit the treasury of JRCS. Recently a complete set sold in a major literature dealers sale for over $500. This is a rare opportunity to acquire a complete set of the JR Journal. FAX bids will be accepted at 606-371-1414 until July 30th for those not attending the convention. The FAX bids must be signed showing your maximum bid on the lot. We will reduce the highest bid to 10% over the underbid which will be the opening bid at the convention. Shipping of $10 will be added to the lot as we will not be transporting the set to Portland. If you need more information contact Brad at the E-mail, or other address, in the header.

The time has also come to vote for your favorite article. You will find a ballot enclosed listing the eligible entries. Please mark no more than three selections and return you votes to Brad at the PO Box. Ballots will be accepted until July 30. The winner will receive the coveted Jules Reiver Literary Award. There are many worthy articles to choose from in this years selections. Good luck to all our authors.

Those attending the convention this year in Portland are invited to our open houses after hours. There will be informal meeting in our hotel room Wednesday and Thursday evenings. More information will be available at the show. Ask your fellow JRCS members; the word will get around. This is an opportunity to socialize with other members of the club, float ideas on research, and view coins in an informal atmosphere. All are welcome; come and have a good time!

We are now accepting information for our next club sponsored census. Please send your information about the early half dollars, 1794-1807 in your collection. We request date, variety, and condition for each coin you own. We would like you to include your duplicates, as well as your set piece, to obtain the best information on populations available. The censuses are one of our most popular features in the journal. It gives collectors the opportunity to share information on their collections as well as seeing how their coins stack up against the other collections. The information amassed in the census more than repays each collector for the minimal trouble of sending us your input. You will only be identified by your JRCS number so as to keep your identity a secret. Also, if you only have a few coins, please send your information. The more input, the more meaningful the numbers become.

In for ma tion: knowledge; facts; news

Knowledge: 1. what somebody knows. 2. all that is known or can be learned.

We all have specialized information about the specific coins we collect. Sometimes it is as simple as viewing and telling others about an individual coin we own. That seemingly insignificant piece of information may unlock the door for someone else's research. It may be the missing link to answer an age old question about the coins we study. Only when we share our own specialized information with others does it have the ability to become knowledge for the group. This is the reason for the publishing of the John Reich Journal. We are the vehicle for you, the membership, to share your information with the world. As other members read your articles the things you present become knowledge for the rest of us. We learn because you were kind enough to present your information in these pages. You do not have to be a professor, or a genius to contribute to the journal. There are plenty of people available to help you get over any snags that may occur in your research. Please feel free to contact any of the board members for help. We are always looking for more information to turn into knowledge.

We hope you enjoy the articles in this issue as much as we have in preparing them for your perusal. We are amazed with each issue the number of things you have to say in your articles. We learn something new with each issue we publish. Please let us know if there is anything different you would like to see in your journal. Now, get ready to be lost for the next few hours in the world of John Reich and his associates.

EARLY HALF DOLLAR COLLECTORS

It is time to send in your updates for the Early Half Dollars, 1794-1807 Census. Everyone is encouraged to send in their census, not just the 'front line' pieces, but also duplicates, die states, etc. - by variety (ie. everything in your collection). Your identity will be kept a secret by using your **JRCS** membership number as the heading for your collection. Your personal census will be kept confidential and not used for any other reason. This, and other censuses compiled by the **JRCS** for its members, is a valuable tool for determining rarity and condition census for varieties. Please forward your census, or questions, to the editors at:

Early Half Dollar Census, P.O. Box 135, Harrison, Ohio 45030.

Bradley S. Karoleff

Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points

JRCS

First of all let me say another outstanding job on the Journal. I found Jeff Prem's article very informative and I feel he has made some good speculative points. This should get some more minds working.

I am trying to do some research on the 1828 O123 Bust Half Dollar with the diagnostic rail road track reverse. Would anyone who has one please send me a picture of the obverse and reverse? Or please contact me so I can use your information for my research.

Van Harvey
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JRCS

I am not an expert in looking at a Turban Half and pronouncing it an Overton 110. I need help in identification, especially where there are multiple choices, like 50 1827's.

Thanks to Jules Reiver and his reverse coding (berries or scroll position vs letters), I was able to develop a computer program to give a list of the 10 closest matches to an input taken from the coin.

As an example, for a Turban Half: After typing the date (1827), I input the position code (1 to 9) for the left edge of the scroll vs ED (UNITED). Three other codes, center of I (PLURIBUS) vs AT (STATES), left side of S (PLURIBUS) vs ES (STATES) and right edge of the scroll vs AM (AMERICA), complete the input.

The computer then searches the data bank and calculates the difference between the input code and the band data for each position code for each Overton of that date. It sums these differences and the squares of these differences and shows the closest 10 matches in order of the smallest difference of squares, by Overton number, along with a description.

The screen shows:

NO.	DSQ	DIF	DESCRIPTION
115	6	3	O-C 2; AA 1/2; Solid Stripes: LULB; *7JCHB; Lined 2
135	10	6	O-C 2; AA 1/2; A1 Hi vs T1, Lo vs T2: CBLU; *7JCHB
103	20	10	O-C 1 1/2; AA 1/2; 5/5: UUCL; *7 TOC, 7/6; *to edge

etc. through the closest match

To attribute the coin, start at the top and compare the coin with the description until a match is made, usually within the first few, even if the input is off by 1 or 2 numbers. A final check can be made by referring to Overton.

A print of the screen can be obtained for future reference, especially if you want to do a series of coins. The program allows for doing multiple coins.

The same procedure (different position codes) is used for small and heraldic eagle reverses and large cents. Half dollars can also be checked by obverse star vs dentil positions and with a combination of obverse and reverse position codes.

Programs exist for middle date large cents (1816-1839), late date large cents (1839-1857), bust and turban half dimes, dimes, quarters, half dollars and bust dollars.

I would appreciate knowing if anyone has the following coins so I can obtain the position codes (I'll show you how) to update my data bank:

1848 Large Cent, small date
1854 Large Cent reported in **Coin World** 10-9-95 (Bob Grellman)
1832 Half Dime V15
1835 Half Dime V12 1835/1 **Coin World**
1836 Half Dime V8 3/inverted 3 (MM Hall)
1837 Half Dime V6 repunched date and stars (Heritage)

My thanks to Jules Reiver for doing the hard work of establishing the code and numbers.

Darrel Neidigh
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Bethany Beach, DE 19930

Turban Head Half Dimes: Searching for Die Varieties

Alan Bricker

The Turban Head half dimes were produced during a nine year span from 1829 to 1837, before this William Kneass design was replaced by the Liberty Seated design. Over 13 million pieces were struck during this period, and (as a guess) perhaps some 15 percent of the original mintage of these diminutive silver coins survive to the present.

'Redbook' collectors have long recognized fourteen 'major' varieties; the varieties include one of each date, along with the large date and small date varieties of 1835, plus the large 5C and small 5C varieties of 1835, 1836, and 1837. To this list of 'major' varieties should be added the 2-line and 3-line vertical shield stripe varieties of 1829.

Will Neil first published on individual die varieties of the Turban Head type with a review in the August, 1927 issue of the **Numismatist**; he enumerated 53 different die varieties and gave sketchy verbal descriptions. Daniel A. Valentine followed up in a 1931 ANS monograph on half dimes by giving improved verbal descriptions and expanding the list to include 69 different die varieties; he also plated each obverse and each reverse. Dr. Valentine's work has now stood as the 'standard' reference in the series for two-thirds of this century. During the 1950's, Walter Breen, while in the employ of New Netherlands Coin Co. in New York City, reported on a number of additional die varieties not published in Valentine's monograph. Later, Stewart P. Witham assembled a high-grade specialized set of Turban Head Half Dimes during the 1960's and 1970's, uncovering at least two 'new' varieties in the process of creating his remarkable set (which was sold at auction by Rarcoa at the Central States Convention in May of 1978). By the mid 1970's, 81 die varieties had been published; then, around 1975-1976 three additional varieties were found by other collectors. By the time Jules Reiver published his VIM monograph in September of 1984, the tally was up to 87 published die combination varieties.

By 1984 this writer had begun to observe the differences among the various dies used to coin the Turban Head Half Dimes, and Jules' monograph fueled my interest in and study of the 'baby busties". With exhaustive searching, including attendance at many shows in the years since, this writer has been able to add two 'new' varieties to the list while tracking down 90 different die combinations. With the recent confirmation of a 'new' 1830-dated marriage, the list currently stands at 91 die-combination varieties.

At present, at least one third of these die varieties can readily be found at shows and auctions. With a little time and patience, about 45 varieties can be located. More extensive searching, with some perseverance, would be required before 60 varieties could be obtained

continued on page 33

And, As Winston Churchill Said . . .

Philip J. Evans

It has always been of great interest to me that what I have found to be fascinating about being a variety collector of Bust Halves, so often turns out to be just as fascinating to others who have been bitten by "The Bug". I do not suppose that should be surprising to any of us since it does seem to take a certain type of (as my wife would say) "rather warped" individual to get hung up on varieties in the first place.

It has always been one of my recurring dreams about Bust Halves that, someday, I would encounter a treasure trove of beautiful, uncirculated, unattributed half dollars, which I could then delightedly examine & attribute.

Well, this is the story of my dream coming true--almost!!

Over the past several years I have made the acquaintance of a fellow collector in my home area. A very personable individual, and one who, obviously, was a dedicated connoisseur of coins, with the desire, and the ability to acquire a fine collection.

We spent time discussing numismatics at a local coin shop, and at local small shows. It became clear to me that he must have some very nice coins, and he asked questions which gave me the opening to tell him about attribution of Bust Halves, and introduce him to 'The Brick' -- Overton, Edition 3.

Several months ago, at a local show, he asked me if I would be interested in attributing his Bust Halves. He said that he had a 'year set', and had no idea what varieties he might have.

I cannot recall that I have ever turned down an opportunity to attribute Busties, so, of course, I told him I would be pleased to take a look at his coins.

A few weeks later we made arrangements, by phone, for him to bring his halves to my home. He arrived with a couple of the 8 1/2 x 11 three ring notebooks, which are about three to four inches 'deep', the kind made to hold 'slabbed' coins. I had a spot all set up, with good lighting, and a work table, along with a pen and pad. I asked if he would object to my keeping a record of the coins, since it was always of interest to those of us enmeshed in varieties, as to what showed up in groups of unattributed coins. He said that was fine with him, and that he had brought forty-four coins with him -- all encapsulated.

I asked if he was interested in determining possible values on his coins -- was he familiar with Stephen Herrman's **Auction & Mail Bid Prices Realized (AMBPR)** publication? Yes, he was interested -- and no, he was not familiar with AMBPR, I handed him my copy, opened his 'book', and removed the first 'slab'.

And, then, I nearly fell off my chair.

I was holding a PCGS slab. The label said "1794 MS 63/63". Before I got my breath back, the owner mused "Yes, they got that right. Stack's said it was possibly the finest known, and that's what I paid for it". He was looking at the first line on page 1 of AMBPR "You sent it to PCGS" I asked?" "Yes", he replied. "I like to have all of them PCGS or NGC."

I glanced ahead at the next few coins. There were both 1796 and 1797, in Extra Fine. As I kept skimming ahead, the coins went from AU50 to AU58, and at 1807, became a string of MS numbers. I could not help but remember what Sir Winston Churchill said when he was asked about what type of cigars & brandy he preferred. "Very simple", he replied. "Only the best." I was about to attribute a spectacularly high quality group of Bust Halves.

At the end of this piece, you will find a complete list, by date, Overton Number, rarity and grade, but, just in case you are rushed for time, I will supply a quick recap:

Rarity Numbers:

R1	9
R2	10
R3	14
R4	8
R5	3

The grading breakdown was as follows -- (keep in mind that all the coins were either PCGS or NGC graded). I do not lay claim to being a grading expert, but I have looked at quite a few Bust Halves in the past ten or twelve years, so I think my opinion does count for a little. On the whole, I felt that the coins were quite reasonably graded. Some a bit overgraded, some a bit undergraded -- overall, a 'wash'.

Extra Fine 40	1	
Extra Fine 45	1	
Almost Unc. 50	4	
Almost Unc. 55	1	
Almost Unc. 58	2	
Mint State 62	3	
Mint State 63	5	
Mint State 64	20	
Proof 64	1	
Mint State 65	5	
Mint State 66	1	(Proof)*

* This coin involved an interesting story. It was purchased in a Stack's Auction as 'Proof 66', uncertified. The collector submitted it to PCGS, and it came back as MS66. After considerable discussion, PCGS has refused to call it Proof "since there were, officially, no Proof coins produced at the Mint in 1827"!! I think that is ridiculous. We all know that the Mint knew how to make proofs in 1827, and that 'Presentation pieces', which were proofs, were made on occasion. I would very much like to have Sheridan Downey see the coin. It most certainly has all the earmarks of a proof coin to me!

My research led me to the conclusion that no less than sixteen of the coins were, or might be, "Finest Known" of their variety, and twenty-two more would make the Condition Census.

DATE	OVERTON	RARITY	GRADE	DATE	OVERTON	RARITY	GRADE
1794	O101	R4	MS 63	1819	O114	R3	MS 63
1795	O109	R4	AU 50	1820	O104	R4	MS 64
1796	O101	R5	AU 55	1821	O107	R4	MS 65
1797	O101	R5	EF 45	1822	O114	R3	MS 65
1801	O101	R3	EF 40	1823	O107	R2	MS 64
1802	O101	R3	AU 50	1824	O115	R2	MS 64
1803	O103	R3	AU 50	1825	O111	R3	MS 64
1805	O107	R4	AU 50	1826	O117	R3	MS 64
1806	O114	R5	AU 58	1827	O107	R3	MS 64
1807	O102	R2	AU 58	1827	O121	R4	MS 66
1807	O103	R3	MS 63				(PROOF!)
1807	O113	R2	MS 65	1828	O112	R3	MS 64
1808	O109	R3	MS 64	1829	O115	R1	MS 64
1809	O107	R3	MS 62	1830	O122	R1	MS 64
1810	O107	R3	MS 62	1830	O123	R1	MS 64
1811	O110	R1	MS 64	1831	O109	R1	MS 64
1812	O105	R1	MS 65	1832	O122	R1	MS 64
1813	O107	R4	MS 63	1833	O105	R2	MS 64
1814	O107	R2	MS 65	1834	O115	R2	MS 64
1815	O101	R2	MS 64!!!	1835	O106	R1	MS 64
1817	O110	R2	MS 64	1836	O109	R4	PROOF 64
1818	O111	R1	MS 63	1836	O114	R2	MS 62

This collector is not through yet. He is now going after overdates, possibly a Redbook set. He recently showed me the best, by far, 1812/1, large 8 that I have ever seen. I suspect that the variety 'bug' is about to strike again! (And yes, he did say it was okay for me to write this article).

The "Old Missus" Keg

W. David Perkins

John Reich members, and numismatists, are for the most part familiar with the "Economite Hoard" discovered in 1878 in Economy, Pennsylvania. Many articles have been written about this find including articles in the *John Reich Journal*, Volume 7 / Issue 3, April, 1993 by Chuck Erb and Volume 7, Issue 4, July, 1993 by John Kovach. A very good summary of information on the Economite Hoard can be found in Q. David Bowers' new book **American Coin Treasures and Hoards** (Chapter 6, pages 103-117). I highly recommend this book for those interested in this subject. The Economite Hoard is the largest hoard of early US silver coins reported in the book. According to Bowers, from earlier research, there were 400 quarter dollars 1818-1828, thousands of half dollars dated 1794-1807 and 1815, 111,356 'common' half dollars 1808-1836 and 600 early silver dollars 1794 to 1803. It is safe to say all us would love to have "been there, seen that" as they say today!

I recently discovered evidence of at least one other large hoard of early silver (and other) coins. Following is a letter written from Malone, N.Y. dated January 6, 1868:

> *Gents: The coin business is looking up with me. I find something new, or hear of something which I have to get, every few days. I know if had the time to devote, I could get some good specimens, even "here in the woods." I am now on the track of an old "miser" who has been hoarding gold and silver for "fifty years." His boy says he has got a nail keg full of coins. I shall get a peep at them soon.*
>
> *A.R.F.*

A keg full of gold and silver coins! It's 1868. The "miser" has been hoarding the coins for *over* fifty years. Let's see, since maybe the 1810s? Did this keg really exist? And if it did, what did it contain? Months went by, summer comes.

And finally, another letter arrives from Malone, N.Y., this time dated June 26, 1868.

> *Gents: I have been out of town since I promised you the article for the June No., and have just returned.*
>
> *I find the magazines have come along just the same, and looking them over, I see Maj. Nichols is inclined to believe that the "Old Missus" keg is filled with "Onions." Well, it is open, and though not entirely filled with Onions, (it had no 1804 dollar or 1802 half dime, but was a sight worth looking at), but about six hundred American dollars of 1794, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, 1800, '02, '03; half-dollars of 1794, '95, 1801, '03, '06, '07, '08, to '12, and '18, some of them in very fine condition; quarter dollars of 1805, '06, '07, '18, '25 and '26; dimes were all coined*

after 1820; half dimes of common dates. Had a great many Spanish dollars, French and English crowns, and other foreign coins of no particular value; cents all coined since 1809, a few in the forties in fine condition; half-cents nothing more rare than 1795 or 1828 with 12 stars.

The old man watched me about as closely as I looked at the coins, but to me the sight was worth the cost, "an extra ten miles a foot." I could only purchase a few, he will not part with some of them at any price, though he does not know the value of them.

A.R. Fuller

Although I do not know whatever became of the "Old Missus Keg," this is a fun discovery and is still quite valuable to students of early US coinage. We get a picture of what was circulating in rural NY during this period of time, including both US and foreign coinage. Specialists can also look at the dates found and see how they fit with what we know today on relative rarity, by date, within a particular series. As an early dollar specialist I wonder what is the significance of there being no 1803 dollars in this hoard. Others will note that pre-1805 half dimes and pre-1809 dimes were missing. How about you? I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with all of us through this journal. And does anyone know what became of this hoard? Or, is it possibly still out there somewhere?

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

These letters were found in **Mason's Coin & Stamp Collector's Magazine**. The first letter is from Vol. I, No. 12, March, 1868, page 114. The second letter was published in Vol. II, No. 5, August, 1868, pages 49-50. For those of you who are interested Charles Davis, Wenham, MA reprinted Mason's Magazine recently and may still have copies available for sale. This two volume set contains much information on the coin hobby and auction sales during the 1860s and 1870s.

The 1799 Over 9 Eagle

Anthony J. Taraszka

The 1799 eagle with large obverse stars, Breen's Obverse 5 (Fig. 1) occurs paired with two different reverses; the less common Reverse F (Fig. 2) and the abundant Reverse G (Fig. 3) which was subsequently used for the reverses of 1800 Breen-1A and 1801 Breen-1A eagles (1).

The 1799 Br-5G represents one of the more "common" eagles when found without any die cracks (1, 2). There is a later die state which shows multiple die cracks in a circular area between the edge and stars 6 and 7 (Fig. 4).

There is another characteristic of these eagles which has not been previously noted. The second numeral 9 in the date has been repunched over another 9, which originally was slightly higher and to the right. This results in a somewhat muted "overdate".

The "overdate" is more clearly seen on specimens of the 1799 Breen-5F (Fig. 5) but is also observed on early die states of the 1799 Breen-5G (Fig. 6). Die wear eliminates all traces of the "overdate" in the late die state of the Breen-5G variety with the obverse die break (Fig. 7).

REFERENCES

1. Walter Breen, **United States Eagles**, Hewitt Brothers, 1968.

2. Harry W. Bass, Jr., **Selections from the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Reference Collection of United States Federal Gold Coins**, Coinage of the Americas Conference, American Numismatic Society, New York, N.Y., November 4-5, 1989.

Figure 1 1799 Eagle
Breen's Obverse 5.

Figure 2 1799 Eagle
Breen's Reverse F.

Figure 3 1799 Eagle
Breen's Reverse G, also used as Reverse A of both 1800 and 1801.

Figure 4 1799 Eagle, late
Die State of Obverse 5.

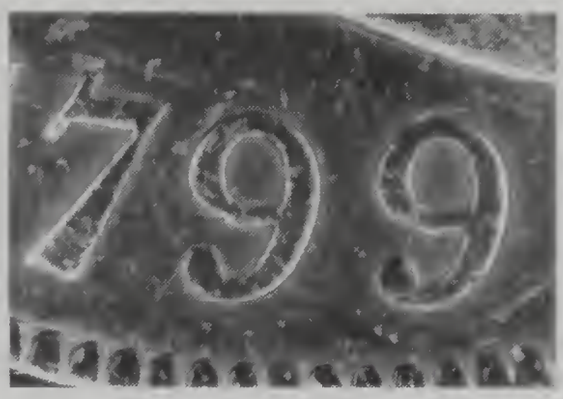

Figure 5 1799 Breen-5F,
Closeup of "Overdate".

Figure 6 1799 Breen-5G, Early Die
State, Closeup of "Overdate".

Figure 7 1799 Breen 5-G, Late
Die State, No trace of "Overdate"

Second Specimen Of 1800 B–17 Die State I Discovered

W. David Perkins, NLG

The January, 1994 *John Reich Journal* (Volume 8, Issue 2) carried an article on page 39 entitled "New Die State 1800 Dollar Discovered." It stated that, "the previously unknown and undamaged die state is discovered" of the 1800 BB-196 (Bolender17) dollar by Bowers & Merena numismatist Mark Borckardt. In David Bower's **"Silver Dollars of the United States"** it was stated that an early and undamaged die state of an 1800 BB-196 dollar "may not exist." The specimen reported was graded PCGS EF-40. I would like to report a second example of this early die state.

Most specimens of this relatively common 1800 dollar variety show a clash mark along the neck about half way down the bust of Liberty (clashing from the reverse die). Later die states show breaks on the obverse and reverse and clash marks on the reverse. **The specimen I observed had no clash marks or breaks (viewed under 7X to 40X magnification) on the obverse or reverse.**

It is important to note that the specimen I observed *did* have the **"line extending to the left from the lower part of the 1 in date."** The specimen Bowers reported also had this line showing (thus, as stated becoming a new characteristic used to identify this die). The obverse and reverse dies were used only in striking this variety (the die was probably discarded early due to the clashing and die breaks).

The coin I viewed was correctly attributed as to variety and die state by Scott Mitchell of Stack's. He sent the coin to me to study and verify. This coin was graded VF by Stack's. The detail was in the VF-30 to 35 range, with a few reverse rim ticks.

1800 B-17 Obverse. Note die clash like a "collar" along the neck and bust. Once considered diagnostic, this clash mark is seen on most specimens of this variety. Note line extending to left of foot of 1 in date, this die line can be used to identify this variety. Photo courtesy of Bowers & Merena.

1800 B-17 Reverse. 12 Arrows. Point of Star touches upper part of eagle's beak. Reverse die used for this variety only. Photo courtesy of Bowers & Merena.

1800 B-17 Obverse. Bowers' Die State I. No evidence of clashing on the neck or bust under high magnification. This photo is of the second specimen of this rare die state known to me.
Photo courtesy of Jules Reiver.

1803 – 1804 DATED EAGLES
A Revised Die Emission Sequence

Anthony J. Taraszka

The 1803 dated eagles consist of a single obverse die (Fig. 1) coupled with six different reverse dies (Figs. 2 to 7). Two of these reverses were used on eagles which were not dated 1803; Breen's 1803 Reverse A is the same as his 1801 Reverse B, and Breen's 1803 Reverse F is the same as his 1804 Reverse A. The other four reverses, Breen B, C, D and E were uniquely used in the production of 1803 dated eagles.

Previous studies have established that the 1803 Breen-1F variety was struck after the 1804 Breen-1A variety, as evidenced from the reverse die breaks (1, 2). Breen proposed the die emission sequence as:

1803 Br-1A, -1B, -1C, -1D, -1E, 1804 Br-1A, "1803" Br-1F (1).

However, a careful study of the obverse clash marks and die breaks on these eagles indicates an inconsistency with the original die emission sequence proposed by Breen.

The 1803 obverse die displays evidence of two major die clashes with reverse dies:

Clash No. 1 – is evident as the horizontal stripes from the shield (reverse die) located in the lower recesses of the hair and face in the area between the upper part of the ear and the cap.

Clash No. 2 – a misaligned die clash with the resulting impression of the dentils, tail feathers, and arrow butts (from the reverse) in the area of the cap and LI.

In addition, a fine crack appears along the top of BERTY during the later stages of obverse die usage.

Personal examination of four different specimens of the Breen-1D variety indicated the complete absence of any clash marks or cracks (Fig.8). Similar examination by H. W. Bass Jr. also indicated the complete absence of clash marks and cracks in his specimen of the Breen-1C variety (3).

In contrast, the Breen-1A variety is seen without clash marks or with Clash No.1 as stripes through the hair (Fig.9). This indicates that both the Breen-1C and 1D must have preceded Breen-1A, and represents a double discontinuity in die usage since this same reverse die had been used in the 1801 Breen-2B variety. This discontinuity was apparently necessitated by the need to remove clash marks produced during the 1801 Br-2B die marriage.

Such a double discontinuity, in which two different dies were used prior to returning to the original die, is rare in eagle production. The only other occurrence is with the insertion of the two 1798/7 eagles between the 1797 Br-2B and the two backdated 1797 Br-2D and 2C varieties (4).

Breen's 1B variety is always seen with clear remnants of the clash mark though the hair, Clash No.1 (Fig.10). It is also seen without and with Clash No.2, the impression of dentils and tail above and to the right of the cap (Fig.11 & 12).

In Breen's 1E variety the remnant of Clash No.2 is present after die lapping which removed the impression of dentils and tail, but left the space between the tail and arrow butts present between the cap and left base of L (Fig.13). In addition, traces of Clash No.1 remain in the hair (Fig.14).

The following table summarizes the observed clash marks and cracks:

1803 Obverse Die Clash Marks and Cracks

Breen Variety	Clash No. 1	Clash No.2	Crack
1C	Absent	Absent	Absent
1D	Absent	Absent	Absent
1A	Absent or Present	Absent	Absent
1B	Present	Absent or Present	Faint
1E	Present	Remnant	Present

H. W. Bass Jr.'s studies indicated that the Breen-1C variety was struck prior to Breen-1D (3). This information along with the data previously described indicates that the actual die emission sequence is as follows:

❶ 1803 Breen-1C ❷ 1803 Breen-1D ❸ 1803 Breen-1A
❹ 1803 Breen-1B ❺ 1803 Breen-1E ❻ 1804 Breen-1A ❼ "1803" Breen-1F

The author wishes to acknowledge the personal assistance of H.W. Bass Jr. in reviewing the data presented in this article and to the Harry W. Bass Jr., Research Foundation for the photograph of Reverse C.

CITATIONS

1). Walter Breen, **United States Eagles**, Hewitt Brothers, 1968.

2). Walter Breen, **Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins**, Doubleday, 1988.

3). Harry W. Bass Jr. personal communication, April 1997.

4). Anthony J. Taraszka, **1797 and 1798 Eagles - Corrected Die Emission Sequence**, John Reich Journal, Vol.9 Issue 3, p. 26, 1995.

Figure 1 1803 Eagle Breen Obverse 1 (from Br-1B).

Figure 2 1803 Eagle Breen Reverse C.

Figure 3 1803 Eagle Breen Reverse D.

Figure 4 1803 Eagle Breen Reverse A, also 1801 Reverse B.

Figure 5 1803 Eagle Breen Reverse B.

Figure 6 1803 Eagle Breen Reverse E.

Figure 7 1803 Eagle Breen Reverse F, also 1804 Reverse A.

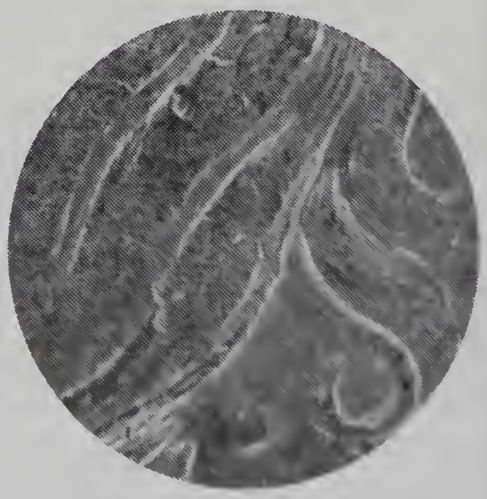

Figure 8 1803 Breen-1D, Obverse, No clash marks.

Figure 9 1803 Breen-1A, Obverse, Clash No.1.

Figure 10 1803 Breen-1B, Obverse, Clash No.1.

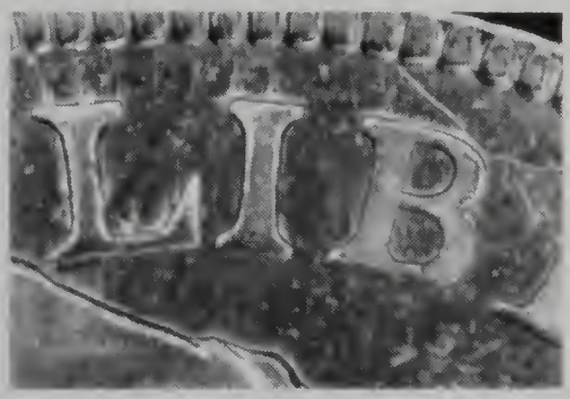

Figure 11 1803 Breen-1B, Obverse without Clash No.2.

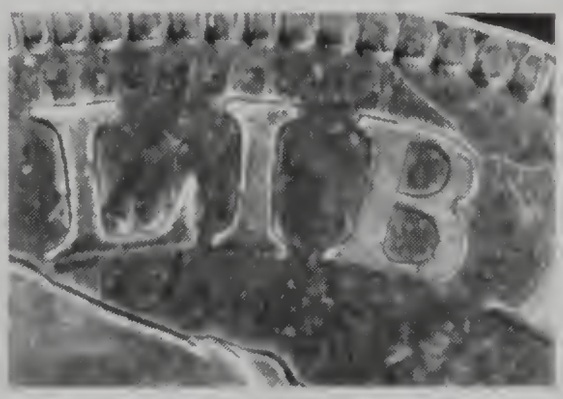

Figure 12 1803 Breen-1B, Obverse with Clash No.2.

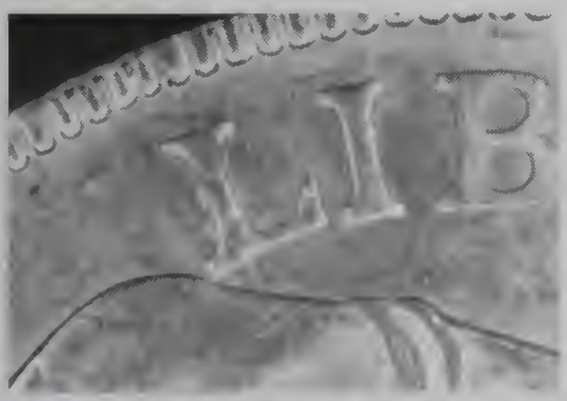

Figure 13 1803 Breen-1E, Obverse, Remnant of Clash No.2.

Figure 14 1803 Breen-1E, Obverse, Clash No.1

New Emission Sequence for the TED Successively Higher Reverse Dimes

Mike Sherrill

So, here is the second version of this article. The completed first version a casualty to making disk space available to install the Bill Nye, the Science Guy game...and I work for a company that supplies backup software solutions...

At the Baltimore coin show in the not too distant past, I bought an unusual 1833 JR9 dime. Not without some hesitation, though, because the BUY voices in my head had procured some less than stellar purchases in the past. The coin graded full fine, but was not choice since it was slightly porous and had been cleaned a long time ago.

Upon closer study and comparison to the die states in the Dime Book (**Early United States Dimes 1796-1837**[1]), it appeared my new purchase was struck from a later reverse die than the one used to strike 1833 JR10. Recall the emission sequence for the TED successively higher reverse lists JR10 as the final use of this reverse die. The reverse of my new example was severely clashed like JR10 and magnification revealed an additional die crack from the rim diagonally through E2 to the scroll. I decided to compare my find to the 1833 JR9 existing in my collection. When I got that coin home from the bank I was surprised to find it also exhibited the same reverse die state. It did not appear that I had paid much attention to the reverse during the initial purchase.

Close examination of this EF JR9 specimen reveals the following characteristics: the reverse is heavily clashed like 1833 JR10 except the clash marks directly above the denomination and in the left field above the eagle's wing are less distinct. The die crack from the rim to the eagle's right wing is more pronounced than the late strikes of JR10 (my JR10 does not have this die crack). Small cracks connect the two uppermost olive leaves to the rim. There is an additional bold die crack from the rim diagonally through the tip of the rightmost part of T3 through the base of E2 to the scroll above the left serif of the U in the motto. Another small crack connects the bases of A1 and T3. The remains of another letter is visible between the tops of R1 and I2. This is also present in the earlier marriages of this reverse.

At this point, a friend who had seen the fine example I'd purchased suggested I send the EF example to Russ Logan to verify that a remarriage existed for 1833 JR9. Russ then provided the following emission sequence, and chart, for the TED successively higher reverse die:

1st use 1834 JR3. Perfect reverse die state (Figure 1). While specimens of high enough grade to determine die state are truly rare, the marriage was terminated with all known specimens struck from a perfect reverse die. Unlike other marriages using

Figure 1. 1834 JR3. The perfect reverse die state. There is no die crack from the rim to A1.

Figure 2. 1833 JR9A. The (still) perfect reverse die.

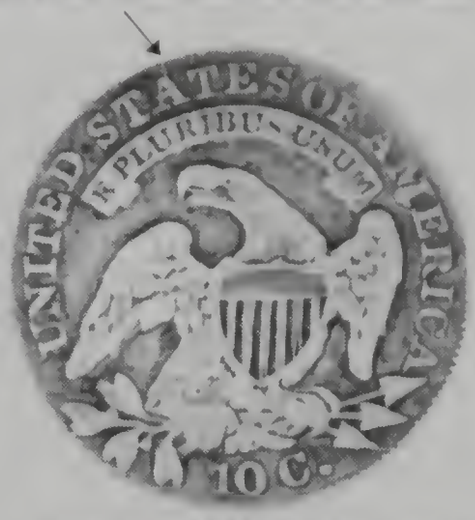

Figure 3. 1833 JR9A. Small die crack from the rim to A1.

this reverse die, the reason for the termination of the die pairing can be determined with some certainty to be the breakup of 1834 obverse die 1 at stars 1-5. This may account for the scarcity of this variety.

2nd use 1833 JR9A. 1st marriage of these dies. Initial impressions are from the perfect reverse die (Figure 2), but later impressions of this marriage have a small die crack from the rim to the tip of A1 (Figure 3). Lovejoy:139 appears to be an example of this die state of JR9.

3rd use 1833 JR7. Initial impressions of this marriage have the die crack from the rim to the tip of A1 (Figure 4), with the die crack quickly progressing down through the base of A1 to the scroll in later strikes (Figure 5). A well known dealer of early federal and seated liberty coins has two very high grade (probably the finest known) examples of this marriage. Both exhibit the later die state with the crack extending completely to the scroll above the right of the R in the motto. Lovejoy:137 appears from the catalog photo to be an example of the earlier die state. Judging from the number of extant specimens today, this marriage was probably quite short lived.

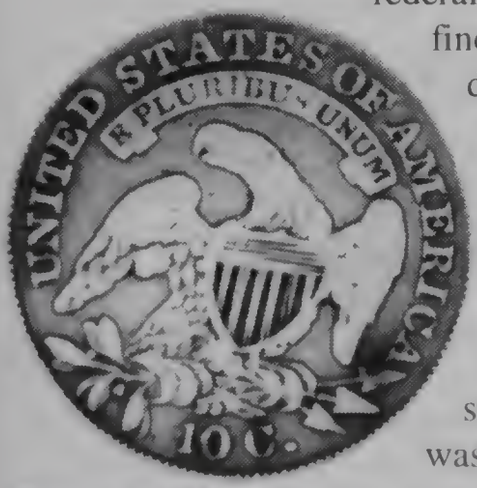

Figure 4. 1833 JR7. Identical die state to that in Figure 3. This is an excellent example of the typically uneven reverse strike; note the weakness in the dentils from E1 to E3.

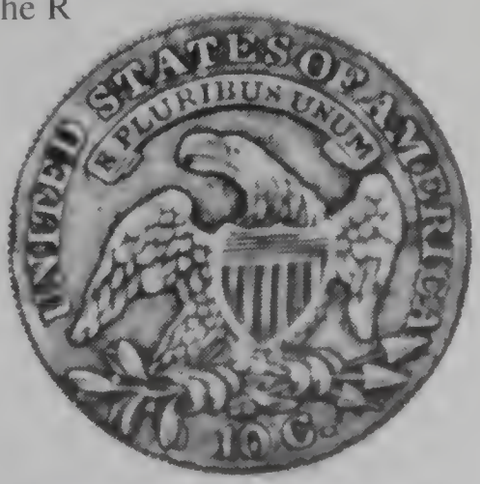

Figure 5. 1833 JR7. It isn't easy to see, but the die crack now extends from the base of A1.

4th use 1833 JR9B. Remarriage #1. Reverse die state is identical to late strikes of 1833 JR7: die crack from rim to A1 to scroll (Figure 6). The plate coin for 1833 JR9 in the Dime Book appears to be an example of this die state. This may possibly be the same as lot 1099 of Stack's sale of December 2, 1992, which is also described as having this die state.

Figure 6. 1833 JR9B. Die crack extends from the rim through A1 completely to the scroll over the right of the R.

5th use 1833 JR10. Dies clash heavily very soon after they are paired (Figure 7). I have not seen, or heard of, an example with unclashed reverse; all specimens have the clash, most evident in the right fields above and below the eagle's wing and directly above the eagle's head.

6th use 1833 JR9C. 2nd remarriage of this die pair. This is the newly discovered die state. All specimens seen are heavily clashed like JR10 and exhibit the late reverse die state described previously (Figure 8). Last year at the Baltimore show, I saw a mint state (or very close) example of this remarriage with doubling of A1. Also, a gem specimen was offered in Stack's sale of March 6, 1996, lot 268, which I did not examine. We can speculate that this reverse was retired fairly soon after striking due

Figure 7. 1833 JR10. Die crack through A1 to scroll. Well clashed reverse. Clash marks are most noticeable above and below the eagle's left wing, below the right wing and above the eagle's head and eye. Minor cracks have developed from the rim to the top two olive leaves. Die crack from rim to eagle's right wing not yet present.

Figure 8. 1833 JR9C. New reverse die state. Die crack through A1 to the scroll. Note the clash marks still present above and below the eagle's left wing and above the head. Die crack very pronounced from the rim to the eagle's right wing. Additional die crack from rim through tip of T3 through base of E2 to scroll. Additional die crack connecting bases of A1 and T3. Central reverse strike on eagle's neck very poor (the obverse of this coin could grade AU50).

to the poor quality of the struck specimens.

The revised, rather complex, emission sequence for this reverse die is shown in Figure 9 in the format used in the new half dime book. The reasons for the pairing and re-pairing of this reverse die are not easily explicable. No presentation pieces, or proofs, are known from this reverse die, so no marriage was terminated to strike presentation coins. It is unlikely this reverse would be chosen for presentation pieces anyway due to the poor reverse strike on all marriages. Most, if not all circulated examples have a reverse which grades at least one full grade lower than the obverse. The strikes were often uneven, especially on the two rare varieties 1834 JR3 and 1833 JR7 (and perhaps all early strikes from this reverse including 1833 JR9A?). The reverses of these two marriages in particular are weak at the top of the reverse, with the strike improving down the reverse of the coin. The JR9 and JR10 marriages have a more evenly although still weakly struck reverse.

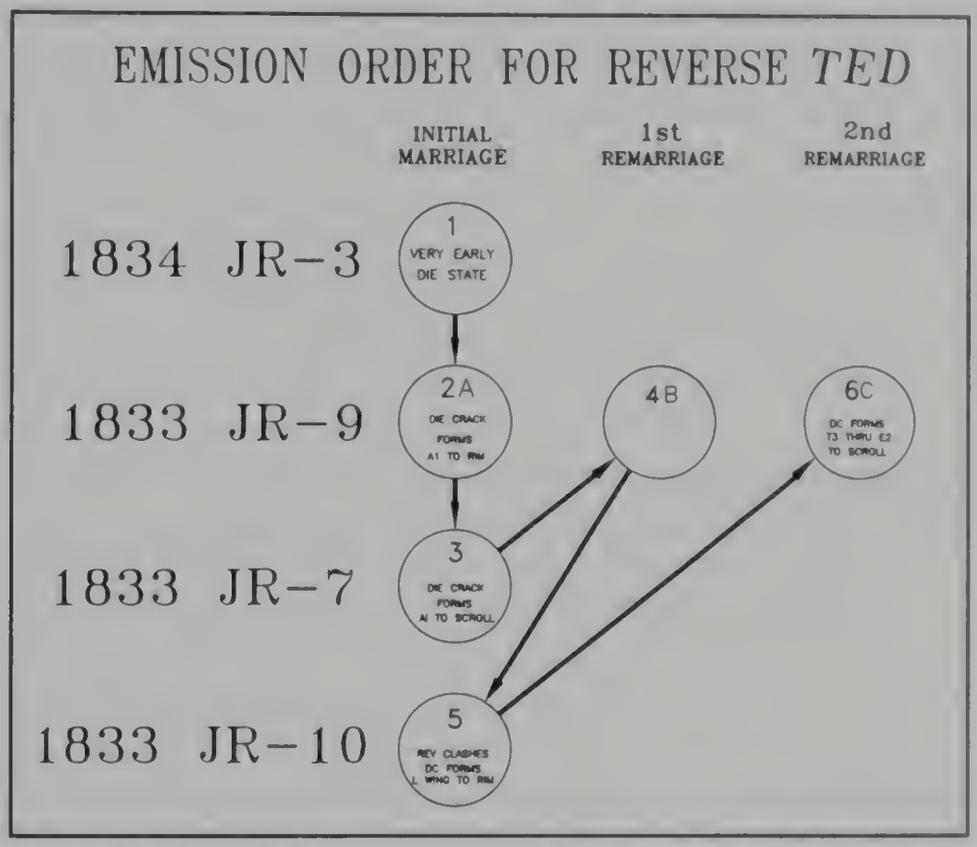

Figure 9. Revised emission sequence for the TED higher reverse in the new format of the upcoming half dime book.

It seems we must attribute the rotation of die use to disorganization at the Mint during this time period. If the presses were being moved more often than usual, the increased rotation of dies is conceivable and perhaps expected. A shortage of available dies of acceptable quality would also force the reuse of dies that otherwise would have been retired. Perhaps also there was a lack of supervision and/or poor morale of the Mint employees.

There is another interesting occurrence concerning this reverse die. Close examination of the placement of reeding relative to the die cracks reveals no variation between pairings of the die[2]. This suggests the reverse die was attached to the collar and the entire assembly was swapped out when the reverse die was replaced. Also, the rotation of the reverse die relative to the obverse appears constant across all die marriages and remarriages. Identical placement of reverse die (and collar) relative to the obverse through all these die pairings is unlikely unless a marker of some sort on the obverse die were in use. What was it?

It is interesting to speculate on the comparative rarities of the three die pairings of 1833 JR9.

My experience supports a mid to high R2 rating for the variety. Accurate rarities for the die pairings requires examination of as large a sample size as possible of JR9 dimes. Apparently, JR9A is the most common, followed by JR9C. JR9B seems slightly rarer than JR9C. Time and opportunity to examine more examples of JR9 are still required to assign R ratings to the sub-varieties.

As detailed as it has become, the emission sequence for the TED successively higher reverse could still hold some surprises. Additional die state information might add or even delete a few circles on the graph above, so please examine your coins carefully!

References

1. D. Davis, R. Logan, A. Lovejoy, J. McCloskey, and W. Subjack, *Early United States Dimes (1796-1837)*, (John Reich Collectors Society, Ypsilanti, MI, 1984).
2. Louis Scuderi, personal correspondence, 1995.

Acknowledgments

Russ Logan for his help and experience in providing the new emission order and supplying photos for Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 9. Without his assistance this article would not be. It almost wasn't even with his help!

Louis Scuderi for his valuable suggestions.

Tom Mulvaney for providing the final photos: Figures 5, 7, and 8.

Another High Grade Treasure May Still Be Out There

Rory Rea

How many times have you rushed to your mailbox and pulled out a new copy of **Coin World** or the quarterly issue of the **JR Journal** to find someone has found a new variety of early bust material? Not too often, but it does happen. How many times have you thought that maybe it could happen with you? Well, I do and I'm sure everyone out there has said to themselves at one time or another "Maybe today I will be the next person with a new discovery piece." Unfortunately my turn has not come yet, but I think I have found something that may be of interest to you quarter guys.

One day last year I proceeded to compile a list of all the collectors noted in the reprint of **The Early Quarter Dollars Of The United States**. I then started obtaining as much reference material as I could concerning these people. I was able to obtain most of my information through numismatic auction catalogs sold by Remy Bourne. (By the way, Remy has always gone out of his way to assist me with my needs being most cordial and polite).

Through his auction catalog inventory I was able to obtain a copy of The R.L. Miles Jr. collection by Stacks in 1969. As I paged through the catalog I saw a very nice high grade example of an 1804 quarter dollar listed as lot 878 on page 84. When I looked closer, I noticed right away that this particular coin was definitely a Browning 2. The 4 was high, almost touching the bust. Absent was the die flaw between stars number 8 & 9 and the lower right star was further away from Miss Liberty than the B1 variety.

Well, I began to try to follow up where this coin may have sold next. I searched through catalogs until I came up with the Armand Champa collection by American Auction Association Inc. dated 1972. There on page 59, lot 794, is what appeared to be the same 1804 B2 quarter which sold for $1,750.00.

I began searching other auction catalogs for this coin but could not find it. I will have to gather more catalogs and keep looking. Meanwhile, I went back and started reading my JRCS Journals and came across Russ Logan's article in Volume 7 issue 2 dated 1993. On page 34 he talked about the reprint of **The Early Quarter Dollars Of The United States** published by Bowers and Merena in 1992. In paragraph 4 Russ states that while Walter Breen lists eleven examples of the B2, the highest grade being VF-25, he unfortunately does not include the EF example that Larry Briggs offered for sale at the 1991 Chicago ANA.

Does this mean there could be two high grade examples out there? Or does it mean that Larry's B2 is the same coin that pedigrees back to The R.L. Miles collection? I don't know

continued on page 33

More Die States on the 1818 B-10 Capped Bust Quarter

Rory Rea

Awhile back (summer of 96) I was going through a dealers inventory of early quarters and came across an 1818 B10. As I studied this coin the dealer mentioned an unlisted reverse die state. "If you look closely you'll notice this coin has a horizontal die crack in the shield," he said. Sure enough, there it was, a faint crack starting from the middle of the shield at left, which moves to the right and slightly upward. Since I happened to have the Browning reprint and Larry Blackwelder's own reference manual with me I thought for sure it would show up, but it did not. The coin was not for sale but the dealer said it was O.K. to write about it. I also took a picture of it so I could send pictures to others.

I wrote to Larry Blackwelder and Jules Reiver. Both wrote back with more new information and revised die states.

Larry's is as follows:

1. Reverse perfect
2. Double clash marks on Obverse and Reverse
3. Reverse cracked from 2 – claws
4. Reverse crack extends to rim below 2; horizontal crack across shield; clash marks mostly faded
5. Obverse cracked rim – cap left of star 8

Jules wrote back mentioning he had 4 B10 varieties with numerous cracks.

1. On the earliest die state he owned he found a crack from the bottom of the right wing tip-through the top two arrow shafts, lowest arrowhead, top of C-top of 5.
2. The later die states have a crack from the rim left of 2-left bottom of 2 straight up through everything to the right bottom of stripe 1. He owned three like this: one light, one medium, and one heavy.
3. The fourth has a crack in the shield: It starts with a dull horizontal crack near the top of the space under the left wing. It can be seen between the three leaves, and then really seen as it crosses the doubled left edge of the shield. As it leaves the edge it seems to go up to the right and can be seen between the second and third vertical line.
4. There is another faint crack just left of the shield that seems to link up with the vertical crack through the 2. This die is really kaput.

Fast forward to January 1998. I was going through my very own inventory and found a misplaced low grade 1818 B10. I could not wait to check this one against all the new die listings. As I began to carefully study this one I found even more die cracks. Here is what I found:

1. Crack from the rim left of 2-left bottom of 2-straight up through everything to the right of stripe l. (Same as Jules #2, Larry #4).
2. Faint vertical crack from top olive leaf tip to center of the bottom of eagles left wing tip. (unlisted).
3. Horizontal crack in shield but now extends over to the 4th gule. (Jules #4, Larry #3).
4. Same as # 3 but now horizontal crack starts at bottom of U in United through the field to left wing through field under wing to breast to shield, through shield (through possibly right wing) out of right wing at top center right through field to bottom right of R through the field to the rim (between two dentils). I believe the crack is complete across the reverse from one end to the other end except I cannot verify this because mine is just a VG and the eagle's wings are worn down.
5. Faint crack protruding from top right of C (in 25 C.) into the field, probably going to the lowest arrowhead shaft (Jules #1).

Well, there you have it. A bunch of cracks on the reverse, but what is the exact order? Can anyone help? The Browning reprint mentions a coin owned by Boyd (# 10 page 65) with a cut between RI. I now know that this is a die crack.

P.S. Has JRCS documented how many 1818 B9 quarters with clashed arrowheads are out there? I am interested. Please write.

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Tustin, CA. 92780

1801 Half Dimes Revisited

Ed Price and Jules Reiver

This article analyzes Valentine-1 and Valentine-2 1801 half dimes and concludes that they are different die states of the same variety.

BACKGROUND

About ten years ago Jules Reiver, in a series of articles in the **John Reich Journal** (1) (2) (3), discussed the possibility that Valentine-1 and Valentine-2 1801 half dimes were struck from the same dies. There were, however, significant differences in late die states which suggested that different obverse dies might have been used. In the first of those articles, Jules also reported on a new variety, now known as Valentine-3, discovered by Eric Gutscher, which was clearly struck from a different obverse die. The same reverse die is used on all known 1801 varieties.

Harold Newlin, in his 1883 book on half dimes (4), listed only one variety of 1801 half dime. He said that high grade examples were hard to find. He believed that no uncirculated example existed. We have now seen some AU to uncirculated coins, several of which are illustrated.

D. W. Valentine, in his 1931 book on half dimes (5), lists two varieties, V1 and V2. However, the only differences he describes relate to die damage or deterioration. For V1, he describes the damage or crack in the right field. For V2, he describes the crack at the left involving part of the date.

Walter Breen, in his 1958 monograph (6), lists two varieties. For V1, he indicates that the 1 in the date touches the curl. For V2, he indicates that the 1 does not touch the curl and that star 13 is a little farther from the bust. A review of the coins and the illustrations with this article may support the existence of slight differences due to lapping, but clearly does not imply the use of two dies. Breen also describes the die deterioration for both varieties.

CURRENT ANALYSIS

In later die states, the V1 obverse has a large raised area, often described as a die crack, but more likely the result of damage to the die. The damage involves the right branch of the Y in LIBERTY and the upper six stars on the right (stars 8 through 13). Crumbling in the dentils by stars 9 through 12 is also present. In all die states observed, V1 has a small lump between star 5 and star 6.

The V-2 obverse has cracks in other areas of the die, although the crumbling in the dentils by stars 9 through 12 and the lump between star 5 and star 6 are exactly like the crumbling and

the lump on V1. The early cracks are from the rim through the tops of RT and from the bottom of the bust to the rim. Later cracks cover LI and part of B in LIBERTY and, with a large arc, include the 1 and most of the 8 in the date.

On fairly early examples of both V1 and V2, one clear difference relates to the lines in the field below LI in LIBERTY. These lines extend from LIBERTY's head, at and to the right of the intersection with the ribbon, into the field toward LI. On V1 the lines are widely spaced. On V2 they are more closely spaced and have a slightly different orientation. These lines appear to be clashes reflecting the shield on the reverse. The entire shield is clearly reflected on very high grade late state V1's. They reappear on V2 as the lapped die again clashed. The orientation is somewhat different because the die was rotated modestly after lapping. The closer spacing on V2 likely results either from multiple clashing or from incomplete lapping of the original clash marks. We initially believed that these lines were file marks resulting from the lapping of the die. This may still be the case.

Were two different obverse dies used, or only one? We have examined many V1's and V2's and can find no real differences in the dies. We have photographed and/or studied more than 30 of these coins. Factors we have considered in studying the obverse dies include:

1. The location of all devices on V1 and V2 seem identical. Some of the stars may be slightly closer on V1, but this is to be expected if the die has been lapped causing the stars to shrink in size on V2.

2. There is a lump between the outside points of stars 5 and 6 on V1. There is a similar lump is the same location on V2.

3. The stars seem to point to the same part of the dentils on both varieties.

4. Late state V1's show evidence of damage to the die. There is a large raised area on the right side of the obverse. On very high grade coins there are stars visible on the damaged area. The presence of the stars suggests that the damage was caused by a heavy object, such as a tool or another die, having come in contact with the die. Since fairly significant force would be required, this might have happened accidentally as the die or related equipment was being adjusted in some way.

5. There is dentil crumbling by stars 9 through 12 on later states of V1 and on all V2's. The dentil crumbling is identical on all coins observed.

6. The stars on the right of V2's are weak and spindly. We believe that when the die was lapped to remove the heavy damage, these stars were lapped making them weak and spindly.

7. On high grade early V2's, a shadow of the lapped damage is visible to the left of stars 8 through 11.

OUR CONCLUSION

We believe that the same obverse die was used on V1 and V2. Since they also share the same reverse die, they are different die states of the same variety.

The die was clashed early and then developed the dentil crumbling by stars 9 through 12. (This dentil crumbling was stable for the remaining life of the die.) The die then appears to have been damaged by some foreign metal material to the left of stars 8 through 12. The damage also affected the Y in LIBERTY and star 13. The die was then lapped, removing almost all of the damage and making the stars at the right weak and spindly, and removing many of earlier clash marks.

After lapping, the die was used to produce what has been known as V2. Die failure in the form of cud-like bulges or crumbling developed at RT and under the bust. Finally, significant cracks appeared on the left side of the obverse, covering LI and part of B, as well as the 1 and most of the 8 in the date. Even in its final state the dentil crumbling by stars 9 through 12 appears identical to all earlier states where it is present.

DIE STATES

Assuming that V1 and V2 are the same variety, we have identified the following die states for the obverse die: (All die states except state e. are illustrated.)

a. Die perfect (actually only observed with light clashes), including small lump between outside points of star 5 and star 6

b. Die clashed extensively at date and obverse fields

c. Dentil crumbling from stars 9 through 12. Clash marks by head reflecting shield on reverse are first clearly visible in this die state.

a.

b.

c.

d. Die damaged causing large raised area in field to left of stars 8 through 12 and affecting right branch of Y and S13. Clash marks by head reflecting shield on reverse appear stronger (possibly doubled) in this die state.

d.

e. Die deterioration in form of crumbling develops from rim toward top of T

f. Die lapped to remove all but a trace of the damage noted in state d. Much of the clashing from earlier die states is also removed. Cud-like crack develops joining the bust to the rim. Rim crumbling noted in state e now extends from rim to the tops of RT. The lump between the outside points of star 5 and star 6 is still present, but weaker. Clash marks by head, reflecting shield on reverse, are more closely spaced with different orientation as earlier described. These marks may be file marks resulting from the lapping of the die. (This die state was previously known as an early die state of 1801 V2.)

g. Rim crumbling noted for state e and state f now much heavier, involving almost all of R and T and extending below RT to the hair.

h. Heavy arc-like crack develops from the rim under 0 in date, curving up to the right and covering 1 and most of 8 in the date. A similar heavy arc-like crack develops at top of the coin from rim over right side of B and curving down to the left through B covering LI and part of B. On lower grade coins, like the one illustrated, this provides the appearance of a crack which covers an entire arc on the left side of the coin from the top of the coin to the bottom. Higher grade specimens may show that the crack is not complete. All specimens we have seen have both the top and bottom portions of the arc. Valentine mentions only the bottom portion, so a die state may exist which includes only the bottom portion.

f.

g.

h.

CITATIONS

(1) Reiver, Jules, "A New 1801 Half Dime", **John Reich Journal**, Volume 2 Number 1, John Reich Collectors Society, 1987.

(2) Reiver, Jules, "More on the 1801 Half Dimes", **John Reich Journal**, Volume 2 Number 2, John Reich Collectors Society, 1987.

(3) Reiver, Jules, "Still More on the 1801 Half Dimes", **John Reich Journal**, Volume 3 Number 1, John Reich Collectors Society, 1988.

(4) Newlin, Harold P., **A Classification of the Early Half-Dimes of the United States**, John W. Haseltine, 1883.

(5) Valentine, D. W., **The United States Half Dimes**, The American Numismatic Society, 1931.

(6) Breen, Walter, "United States Half Dimes: A Supplement", **The Coin Collector's Journal**, Wayte Raymond Publications, 1958.

AFTERWORD FROM ONE OF THE AUTHORS

I first met Jules Reiver at the auction of Alan Lovejoy's dime collection in October of 1990. I had joined the JRCS in 1987 and was intrigued by Jules' articles on 1801 half dimes. I had never done any serious numismatic research or written an article. I told Jules that I had studied several 1801 half dimes and believed that his initial conclusion that V1 and V2 might be the same variety was correct. We agreed to meet. And meet we did. Once or twice a year, I went to Wilmington with my 1801's and had a delightful time learning about early United States coins and many other things - including numismatic literature, medals, cameras and vintage cars - from Jules. Jules encouraged me to write several other articles, which I did. But, we never seemed to have quite enough information to be sure that we were right about the 1801's. Throughout this period we were both buying many of the nice 1801 half dimes we saw, so we could properly study them. I was successful on only one coin at the Pittman sale last October - guess which one. And then there was the Eliasberg 1801 half dime, probably a die cap.....

Well, here we are - more than ten years after Jules' first article and more than seven years after we met at the Lovejoy sale. We have developed a wonderful friendship - and, finally, we have produced our article on 1801 half dimes.

Ed Price 3/98

continued from page 6

TURBAN HEAD HALF DIMES: SEARCHING FOR DIE VARIETIES

unattributed, and to reach 75 varieties in this fashion would truly be quite an accomplishment. Specialists may acquire over 80 die combinations, usually with the help of trades and with purchases of attributed specimens at premium prices, however they will often be missing up to a half dozen or so rare die varieties. Assembling a complete set represents a major challenge which will test the most astute and diligent collector; to accomplish such a goal would truly rival finding the proverbial "pot of gold at the end of a rainbow" . . . and may yet be just as elusive as long as any 'new' varieties remain to be exposed.

DATED: September, 1997

(contributed to Baltimore Coin Club's newsletter, The Courier)

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ANOTHER HIGH GRADE TREASURE MAY STILL BE OUT THERE

as my research is not complete and I'll have to wait until the Long Beach Show to ask Larry. Does anyone know who owns the coin Larry sold? We might be able to match it up to the pictures. In the mean time I plan to make the necessary changes to Walter Breen's list. On page 21 item 13 Walter lists the R.L. Miles coin as a B1 variety. This should be changed to B2.

If anyone can offer more information concerning this 1804 I would appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rory Rea
265 N. Cleveland Street
Orange, CA. 92866

Half Eagle Notched Understar – Fact or Fiction?

Eric Hildebrant

Continuing the "Observations concerning interesting Die Varieties", I would like to add my comments concerning the Breen 2D 1810 Half Eagle: "Small Date, Tall 5".

Walter described the 2D as having a "perfect obverse die" (no cracks) and did not mention anything peculiar about the reverse (excepting the tall 5 in the denomination). While going over the design details of my specimen with a 10X glass, some interesting characteristics appeared.

1) The twelfth star is reentered (overpunched) over another star. The original (undertype) star is shifted about 15 degrees clockwise relative to the overpunched bold star. All points of the undertype star appear, the 10, 12 , 2, and 4 o'clock points being especially bold. The center of the undertype and overtype stars closely coincide.

What is particularly interesting is that the undertype star might be the "notched star", virtually always present as star thirteen of John Reich's coins (as it is here, on Breen 2D). The notched star point "points" toward the rim of the coin, and the undertype star at position twelve has a short point "pointing" toward the rim of the coin. In summary, the undertype star at position twelve appears similar to the "normal", notched star at position thirteen.

Other points of the undertype are also short, but they are not as thick and boldly defined as the "rim point", and therefore would be short due to a too soft, or uneven hammer-blow to the star punch. I am not entirely convinced that the undertype is a "notched star", however, and so I invite the readership to please examine specimens and comment to the hypothesis.

There is even the very slight possibility that this is an entirely new obverse, given Walter's die state analysis of this date in his monograph: **"Early United States Half Eagles 1795-1835"**, since none of the die varieties of 1810 listed has die crack descriptions anything like what is seen here.

Other characteristics of this particular specimen of mine include:

I Obverse

1) Several long die cracks through the dentils: from under the date to star three and from star seven to the top of the cap.
2) A crack connecting the inner points of stars three through five.
3) The left base of the serifs in the 1s of the date are small and very "squared off".

II Reverse

1) The four dentils under the "5" are scalloped and shortened to "make way" for the numeral. This shows that the dentils were added to the die after the other design elements.
2) A die crack from under the "OF" through the right wing tip, and into the bases of the "A" and "M" in AMERICA. Another small crack connecting the top serifs of the "M" and "E".
3) An "engraver's scratch" from the right wing tip, toward the rim, near the base of the "A".

These characteristics are only to help identify the die and are fairly minor in appearance. The repunched twelfth star is dramatic and appears to the ''naked eye". I invite the JRCS readership to examine theirs coins (all types of John Reich) and look for interesting stars!

Jules Reiver Literary Award

Qualifying Articles For This Years Voting

These are the articles that qualify for your consideration for the best article for volume 10 of **The John Reich Journal**. Please vote for no more than three of the following selections by writing the titles, and authors name, on the enclosed postcard and mail it to: JRCS PO Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030. Please act immediately as your votes must be received by July 30, 1998 to count. We will announce the winning article at the annual meeting in Portland. An award plaque will be forwarded to the lucky winner after the convention. Please remember to vote for no more than three selections from the following list.

Volume 10, Issue 1:
Die settings on Flowing Hair and Draped Bust Half Dollars by Chris Pilliod
Messengers From the Past by Philip J. Evans
Condition Census- Bust Half Dimes 1794-1837 by Russell J. Logan
Capped Bust Half Dollar Secrets; The Stars by Edgar E. Souders
Is There a Later Die State? by Dick Striley
Bust Half Fever: A Review by Russell J. Logan

Volume 10, Issue 2:
Quiz Time...For Bust Quarters by George J. Polizio
Photo of the Rarity 8 1795 B19 Dollar Recently Discovered by W. David Perkins
Early American Silver Coins in the Eliasberg Collection by Q. David Bowers
Die State Study of the 1818 O104/O104a by Mike Marker
Let's Talk About It!!! by Philip J. Evans
Unit Value: New Applications for an Old Idea by Jeffrey A. Prem
A New Half Dollar Variety- 1806 O128 by Don Parsley
Possibly Unique 1795 B18 Dollar Variety Soon to be Offered? by W. David Perkins
My First Bust Half- 1823 O107 by Michael T. Williams
Die Struck Counterfeit 1833 50C by Q. David Bowers

Volume 10, Issue 3:
O.K. Rumbel's Early Dollar Grading Set by W. David Perkins
Analysis of Superior's 1/96 Michael Keston Auction of Early US Gold by David Wnuck
See- I've Always Told You So!! by Philip J. Evans
The One That Got Away! by W. David Perkins
Bust Dime Census by Russell J. Logan
An Interesting 1796 Bust Half Dollar by Jesse Patrick
Attribution By Computer by Darrel Neidigh
Capped Bust Half Dollar Bibliomania: A Review by Russell J. Logan
Mark Smith 1950-1996 by Stephen A. Crane

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c ___ Capped Bust Half Dimes
d ___ Draped Bust Small Eagle Dimes
e ___ Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle Dimes
f ___ Capped Bust Dimes
g ___ Draped Bust Quarter Dollars
h ___ Capped Bust Quarter Dollars
i ___ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dollars
j ___ Draped Bust Half Dollars
k ___ Capped Bust Half Dollars
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